I: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

538 for their diverſion in all their entertainments. They ſometimes
522 ſmoke tobacco, and tell ſtories; all which merriments are generally in the night time. They have alſo profeſſed buffoons or jeſters; but their wit is intolerably indecent and obſcene.

CHAP. XV.

Of their FRIENDSHIP, *and* HOSPITALITY

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211 WHEN any one of this country ſeeks the friendſhip of another he invites him to his hut, and for his entertainment dreſſes as much of his beſt victuals as might ſerve ten people. As ſoon as the ſtranger comes into the hut, which is made very hot for his reception, both he and the landlord ſtrip themſelves naked: then the latter ſets before his gueſt great plenty of victuals; and while he is eating it the hoſt throws water upon red-hot ſtones, 'till he makes the hut inſupportably hot. The ſtranger endeavours all he can to bear this exceſſive heat, and to eat up all the victuals that were dreſſed; and the landlord endeavours to oblige his friend to complain of the heat, and to beg to be excuſed from eating all up. It is reckoned a diſhonour to the landlord, and a mark of niggardlineſs, if he ſhould be able to accompliſh this. He himſelf eats nothing during the whole time, and is allowed to go out of the hut; but the ſtranger is not ſuffered to ſtir 'till he acknowledges himſelf overcome. At theſe feaſts they over-eat themſelves ſo much, that for three days they cannot bear the
574 ſight of victuals, and are ſcarce able to move, from repletion.
576 When the ſtranger is gorged, and can no longer endure the
431 heat, he purchaſes his diſmiſſion with preſents of dogs, cloaths,

or

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

or whatever is agreeable to his landlord; in return for which he receives old rags, and useless lame curs. This, however, is reckoned no injury, but a proof of friendship; and he expects, in turn, to use his friend in the same manner. And if that man, who has thus plundered his friend, returns not his visit in proper time, he does not thereby save his presents, for the guest pays him a second visit, at which time he is obliged to make him what presents he is able; but if, either out of poverty or avarice, he makes him none, it is looked upon as the greatest affront, and he must expect this man always to be his enemy: besides, it is so dishonourable that no body else will ever live in friendship with him afterwards.

In their banquets they treat their friends in the same manner, only they do not torment them with heat, nor expect any presents. When they entertain with the fat of seals or whales, they cut it out into slices; and the landlord kneeling before his company, with one of these slices in one hand and a knife in the other, thrusts the fat into their mouths, crying in a surly tone, *Ta na*, and with his knife he cuts off all that hangs out of their mouths, after they are crammed as full as they can hold. Whoever wants any thing from another may generally obtain it upon these occasions; for it is reckoned dishonourable for the guest to refuse his generous landlord any thing. An instance of this happened, between a *Kamtschadale* and a newly christened Cossack, just before I arrived, and was then the common subject of conversation. The Cossack, according to the custom of that country, had a *Kamtschadale* to his friend, who he heard was possessed of a very fine fox-skin, which he greatly desired, but which the *Kamtschadale* would by no means part with. The Cossack invited him to his hut, where he entertained him with vast plenty of victuals, and by throwing water upon burning-hot stones made the heat of the hut intolerable to his friend the *Kamtschadale*, 'till at last he was obliged to beg for mercy.

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

574 576 431 This the Coſſack would not grant 'till he had obtained a promiſe of the fine fox-ſkin. It ſhould ſeem, that this entertainment could not be agreeable to the *Kamtſchadale*: however, he ſeemed to be pleaſed with it, and to ſwear that he never thought it poſſible to make ſuch a heat, or that the Coſſacks could entertain their friends with ſo much reſpect; and declared, that though he looked upon his fox-ſkin as an ineſtimable rarity, yet he parted from it with pleaſure on that occaſion, and ſhould always remember the noble entertainment of his friend.

CHAP. XVI.

584 *Of their* COURTSHIP, MARRIAGES, *&c.*

WHEN a *Kamtſchadale* reſolves to marry, he looks about for a bride in ſome of the neighbouring villages, ſeldom in his own; and when he finds one to his mind, he diſcovers his inclination to the parents, deſiring that he may have the liberty of ſerving them for ſome time: this permiſſion he eaſily obtains, and, during his ſervice, he ſhews an uncommon zeal in order to ſatisfy them of what he can do. After having thus ſerved, he deſires liberty to ſeize his bride; and if he has happened to pleaſe the parents, his bride, and her relations, this is preſently granted; but, if they diſapprove of it, they give him ſome ſmall reward for his ſervices, and he departs. It ſometimes happens that theſe bridegrooms, without diſcovering any thing of their intention, engage themſelves in ſervice in ſome ſtrange village; and though every one ſuſpects their deſign, yet no notice is taken of it, 'till either he or his friend declares it.

When